

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EARLY RESOLUTION OF COMMON FISHERIES POLICY
ISSUE DOUBTFUL

1. SPEAKING BEFORE THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN LUX-
EMBOURG, JUNE 20, EC AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMIS-
SIONER REJECTED BRITAIN'S LATEST SET OF CONDITIONS FOR A
COMMON FISHERIES POLICY. THE BRITISH DEMANDS PUT FORTH
BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD JOHN
SILKIN INCLUDED:

- (1) GUARANTEES OF QUOTAS FROM 1982 ON EQUAL TO THE
TOTAL AVAILABLE CATCH WITHIN ITS 200-MILE LIMIT;
 - (2) PERMANENT EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR UK FISHERMEN UP
TO 12 MILES FROM THE COAST;
 - (3) INCREASE IN 1978 PROPOSED QUOTAS;
 - (4) A GREATER SHARE OF EC QUOTAS IN NORWEGIAN AND
FAROLSE WATERS;
 - (5) THE USE OF FISHING PLANS TO LICENSE SPECIFIC
BOATS FOR LIMITED CATCHES AT SPECIFIED LOCATIONS;
 - (6) A GUARANTEED CLAIM TO MOST OF THE INCREASE IN
FIRST STOCKS RESULTING FROM CONSERVATION.
- OTHER EC DELEGATIONS REPORTEDLY TOOK THE UK HARD LINE AS
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AN INDICATION THAT BRITIAN DOES NOT WISH A SETTLEMENT
BEFORE THE NEXT UK GENERAL ELECTION.

2. SILKIN'S PERFORMANCE AND HIS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE
REFLECT AN UNUSUAL CONSENSUS. THE PRO-EC "TIMES" EDI-
TORIALIZED TODAY AT SOME LENGTH ON THE SUBJECT, APPLAUD-
ING SILKIN'S STONEROLLING OF THE EC AND QUOTING APPROV-

INGLY FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE GREEN PAPER (AS REPORTED IN LONDON 8327). THE EDITORIAL GOES ON TO SAY, "THERE IS THE FACT THAT THE COMMON FISHERIES PROGRAM EMBODIES THE MOST ADVANCED PIECE OF MARKETING ATTEMPTED UNDER THE TREATY OF ROME, GOING BEYOND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY OF RESOURCE IN FISH (ALL FISH HELD IN COMMON); AND THE SUSPICION THAT IT WAS JUST PUT TOGETHER BY NATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SO CARELESS OF RESOURCES THAT THEIR OWN WATERS WERE LARGELY FISHED OUT AND WHICH HAD AN EYE ON THE BETTER-PRESERVED STOCKS IN WATERS SURROUNDING THE BRITISH ISLES SO LONG AS A SATISFACTORY COMMUNITY AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE ATTAINABLE, MR. SILKIN SHOULD CONTINUE TO GO FOR IT, YIELDING UP NONE OF HIS ACCUSTOMED FIRMNESS."

3. LESS SURPRISINGLY, "FISHING NEWS," THE BRITISH TRADE PAPER, EDITORIALIZED: "THERE IS NO DOUBT MR. SILKIN CAN TAKE HIS NOW WELL-KNOWN OB DURACY IN THE FACE OF EEC OPPOSITION TO THE LIMIT. HE CAN DO THIS IN THE ALMOST CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME HE DIRECTLY REPRESENTS THE BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY. WITH THE EEC GOING INTO RECESS UNTIL THE AUTUMN, POLITICAL EVENTS IN BRITAIN ARE ALMOST SURE TO REMOVE MR. SILKIN FROM THE FISHING SCENE. THE PREDICTED AUTUMN ELECTION WILL EITHER SEE HIM OUT OF OFFICE OR INVOLVED IN A PROMISED CABINET RESHUFFLE. IN CONTRAST TO MOST OF HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREDECESSORS, MR. SILKIN WILL LEAVE THE INDUSTRY WITH HIS REPUTATION ENHANCED. HE HAS PROVED A VALIANT FIGHTER, BUT THE BIG ISSUES WITH THE EEC STILL REMAIN TO BE SOLVED."

4. COMMENT. AT THE "CATCH 78" FISHERIES EXHIBITION IN ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND LAST WEEK AN EMBOFF HEARD MUCH GROUSING OVER HOW THE UK FISHERIES INDUSTRY IS PUT UPON BY THE EC. ANTI-EC FEELINGS ARE HIGH THROUGHOUT THE INDUSTRY NOW AND THERE IS UNIVERSAL SUPPORT FOR SILKIN'S HARD LINE. THE ARREST OF A GRIMSBY TRAWLER BY A DANISH GUNBOAT OFF GREENLAND LAST WEEK DID LITTLE TO HELP MATTERS.

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BREWSTER

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